JUDICIAL BRANCH COURTHOUSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Type: Standing Advisory Committee

Established: September 10, 2008 Chair: Chief Justice or designee

I. Purpose:

The Judicial Branch Courthouse Advisory Committee is hereby established to build on the work of the Infrastructure Advisory Committee as a tri-branch working group to study the facilities within which the court system operates and to make recommendations concerning maintenance, renovation, upgrade and possible closures of courthouses to all three branches of State government.

The Advisory Committee will:

- A. Review information about the facilities and the related budgeting issues;
- B. Identify barriers which prevent safe and accessible availability of justice, including, but not limited to, circumstances of disrepair, inadequacy of secure space, and ADA issues;
- C. Develop joint solutions to remove fiscal and physical barriers, including methods for funding renovations, maintenance, and space acquisition;
- D. Assess current courthouse locations and make recommendations for change consistent with facilitating court operations and functioning within operating budgets; and
- E. Provide input to assist in establishing priorities for future renovations and construction projects.

II. Goals

It is expected that the Advisory Committee will:

- A. Develop proposals regarding the future course of the relationship between the State and Counties with regard to court facilities in county owned buildings, particularly with respect to responsibilities of the entities pursuant to 4 M.R.S.A. § 115;
- B. Develop a budgeting plan that will allow the Judicial Branch to provide safe and accessible justice within the court facilities of the State of Maine; and
- C. Make recommendations for setting priorities regarding new construction, renovations, or possible closings of court buildings.

III. Authority:

The Advisory Committee may seek input, suggestions, and recommendations from individuals and groups within and outside the Judicial Branch. The Advisory Committee may propose recommendations generally and those in the form of specific plans for individual facilities, alternative funding structures, and proposed legislation.

The Advisory Committee may invite consultants to the meetings as needed.

The Chair may, in his or her discretion, establish subgroups to study designated issues and report recommendations for consideration by the Advisory Committee as a whole.

There is no funding authorized for the work of the Advisory Committee.

IV. Membership:

The membership in the Advisory Committee shall consist of members from the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches of Maine State Government, members of County or Municipal government, and representatives of stakeholder interests. The specific names shall be listed in a separate membership roster. Members will serve three-year terms, renewable at the discretion of the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, or designee, will serve as Chair.

V. **Meetings:**

The Advisory Committee shall meet as often as is necessary to complete its responsibilities. The Chair shall, in consultation with the members, schedule the meetings of the Advisory Committee.

VI. **Reporting:**

The Advisory Committee shall submit a report containing recommendations to ensure that courthouses are safe and accessible and specific plans for the achievement of those recommendations to the Supreme Judicial Court.

Dated: October 7, 2008

Approved by:

_____/s/ Leigh I. Saufley

Chief Justice, Maine Supreme Judicial Court

JUDICIAL BRANCH COURTHOUSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

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